

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending. Claims 1, 2, and 5 have been amended. No new matter has been added. In the Office Action, claims 1-5 were rejected as being indefinite under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended the claims to overcome the rejection. The rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 3-5 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Menkhoff et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,137,349). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Menkhoff discloses a filter combination that operates wholly differently than the claimed method. According to Menkhoff, a signal present at a signal source 5 is sampled using a first clock 7. The output of the signal source 5 is digital signal d1, which runs through a low pass filter 1, a time-invariant interpolation filter 2, and a time-variant interpolation filter 3. After that, a sampling rate reduction occurs in a decimator 4. Finally, the sampled and reduced (with respect to sampling rate) digital signal d3 passes to a buffer 6, where it is output with a second clock 8. Thus, a single input signal is sampled with a first clock, whereby an intermediate digital signal arises. The intermediate digital signal is interpolated twice and the interpolated signal is output with a second clock as a digital output signal.

To anticipate a claim, a reference must teach every element of the claim. MPEP 2131. Claim 1 recites “[a] method for synchronizing a plurality of digital input signals.” Further, claim 1 recites “forming digital auxiliary signals using only one resampling device” and “forming synchronized digital output signals which correspond to the digital input signals by interpolating each digital auxiliary signal.” Because Menkhoff’s filter combination cannot synchronize a plurality of digital input signals, it fails to anticipate claim 1, and the pending rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. Moreover, in accordance with claim 1, the digital input signals differing most are sampled first with a post-processing clock that is at least twice as fast as the fastest clock of the digital input signals. Thereafter, the thus-generated auxiliary signals are interpolated. Menkhoff discloses interpolation of a single digital input signal, which occurs before sampling and is not disclosed to be at least twice as fast as the clock of the digital input signal.

None of the other cited prior art teaches or suggests the synchronization method of claim 1. Claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record. Claims 3-5 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Menkhoff in view of Yen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,707,841). Yen does not cure the deficiencies of Menkhoff discussed above. Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons.

In view of the above, each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections and pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Attorney Docket No. 449122006400.

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